

Now, we have all seen the benefits of trade with China. I have seen it in Rhode Island. It has been growing from a very small base to a moderately larger base, and it continues to grow. In fact, years ago, one of the first glimpses I had of the global economy was going to an Italian parade on Federal Hill in Providence, RI, meeting a gentleman with whom I chatted. I took him to be a jewelry worker or somebody who worked in the plant. It turns out he owned that business in Rhode Island. We were chatting and he asked me, "Have you ever been to China?" That was 5 or 6 years ago. Then, he casually said he owned an aerosol factory in Beijing. So I knew when you go to an Italian festival in Providence and chat with a businessman and he owns an aerosol factory in China, the world is getting much smaller. It is happening all across the country.

What we have tried to do in this agreement—we, the negotiators—is to recognize that some of our products that are very dear to the hearts of our economy will get some benefits. For example, on precious metals and jewelry—a huge part of our economy and still an important part—China will reduce its tariffs from 40 percent to 11 percent. That, we hope, will help. In terms of information technology products, that is something we would like to be a bigger part of our economy, but it is a growing part. China will eliminate all duties on computers, electronics, fiber optic cable, as well as on scientific and measuring equipment. We have some of the oldest industrial measuring companies in the world, such as Browne and Sharpe; they, too, will benefit. And there are several more products where we can see advantages that will accrue directly to my home State of Rhode Island.

Also, there is just a general benefit to the businesses and workers of America. It is very much manifested in small- and medium-size businesses because they are doing more and more trade with China. It has doubled in the last 5 years from about 3,100 small- and medium-size businesses trading with China to about 7,600 trading today. That should increase even more. Part of this arrangement in the President's proposal in terms of making PNTR work is making the Department of Commerce more active in promoting trade with China—going out and educating small- and medium-size businesses about the advantages of trade with China, and show them through web sites and informational brochures how to get into the Chinese market. Once again, I believe—and maybe this is the essence of our mutual faith in this country—that once our businesspeople and our workers have the idea and the knowledge to go out and do something, they are going to do it and do it very well.

As I mentioned previously, we have already built in some protections against inevitable, or at least possible, surges of Chinese imports into our

country. We have special provisions that will last 12 years, which deal with market disruptions and will not be limited to any one product but to all the products the Chinese may export to this country. We also will still have access to sections 301 and 201, and anti-dumping mechanisms that are American laws, but the Chinese have agreed to allow them to be used in this transition and in this implementation of PNTR and WTO.

Congressman LEVIN of Michigan, as part of the bill we are considering today, has also created an executive-legislative commission that will oversee not only the trade impact but also the human rights issues that have been raised time and time again on this floor. This commission will be another vantage point from which we can assess and evaluate our relationship with China and their fidelity to the agreements they have signed.

The long and the short of it is that this is an agreement in its details which gives advantages to the United States which will help us and which I believe should be supported.

We are at a point where this measure I believe will pass. We are at a point at which we are embarking on a continuation of our relationship with China, but again a relationship that is still troubling to many.

PNTR will not cure all the defects we see in China, nor eliminate all the defects they see in the United States. But it will continue to give us a framework to be engaged. It will continue to give us the opportunity and the time to work at some of these very fundamental problems. It will challenge the Chinese in many respects to do as much as we will be challenged—some would argue, even more.

We, fortunately, have a system of government that is not dominated by a bureaucratic—and one would say anachronistic—single party. We have a citizenry that is educated. We have social networks. We have Social Security. We have Medicare.

China—which is one of the ironies of that great socialist bastion—has no system of national health care, has no system of pensions, has no system of Social Security. It is all tied into the terribly inefficient state-owned enterprises. And if they try to change these state-owned enterprises, they are going to have to create, in effect, a social welfare system, which we already have in place.

But I also don't want to minimize the fact that in the lives of many American families, this legislation could force change. But the opportunity to continue this engagement, the opportunity to insist that the Chinese not only participate in a world order but be responsible for values of that order, is an opportunity I don't think we can pass up at this time.

I will support this measure. I also look forward to the opportunity to come back here again when, in implementation, we see that they fall short;

when, in implementation, they see us as falling short; but just the opportunity, and I think to be able to have a forum to carefully discuss these issues. It is better than turning away from China. It is better than inducing hostilities. It is better than the alternative.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In accordance with the previous order, the Senate now stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 14.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:25 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 14, 2000, at 11 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 13, 2000:

### THE JUDICIARY

RICHARD W. ANDERSON, OF MONTANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA VICE CHARLES C. LOVELL, RETIRED.

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. WILLIE A. ALEXANDER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. CAROLE A. BRISCOE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID J. KAUCHECK, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. DANIEL F. PERUGINI, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. JEFFREY J. SCHLOESSER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN E. STEVENS, 0000

#### To be brigadier general

COL. RICK BACCUS, 0000

COL. ABNER C. BLALOCK JR., 0000

COL. JOHN M. BRAUN, 0000

BRIG. GEN. GEORGE A. BUSKIRK JR., 0000

COL. JAMES R. CARPENTER, 0000

COL. CRAIG N. CHRISTENSEN, 0000

COL. PAUL D. COSTLOW, 0000

COL. JAMES P. DALEY, 0000

COL. CHARLES E. FLEMING, 0000

COL. CHARLES E. GIBSON, 0000

COL. MICHAEL A. GORMAN, 0000

COL. JOHN F. HOLECHEK JR., 0000

COL. MITCHELL R. LECLAIRE, 0000

COL. RICHARD G. MAXON, 0000

COL. GARY A. PAPPAS, 0000

COL. DONALD H. POLK, 0000

COL. ROBERT S. RIGDON, 0000

COL. CHARLES T. ROBBS, 0000

COL. BRUCE D. SCHRIMPF, 0000

COL. THOMAS J. SULLIVAN, 0000

COL. BRIAN L. TARBET, 0000

COL. GORDON D. TONEY, 0000

COL. ANTONIO J. VICENS-GONZALEZ, 0000

COL. WILLIAM L. WALLER JR., 0000